



# UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

United States Patent and Trademark Office

Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS

P.O. Box 1450

Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/518,907	10/21/2005	Gerd Hoffman	08215-580US1	5392
26171 7590 10/12/2010 FISH & RICHARDSON P.C. (DC) P.O. BOX 1022 MINNEAPOLIS, MN 55440-1022				
EXAMINER				
FIGUEROA, FELIX O				
ART UNIT		PAPER NUMBER		
2833				
NOTIFICATION DATE		DELIVERY MODE		
10/12/2010		ELECTRONIC		

**Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.**

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Notice of the Office communication was sent electronically on above-indicated "Notification Date" to the following e-mail address(es):

PATDOCTC@fr.com

RECORD OF ORAL HEARING

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

---

BEFORE THE BOARD OF PATENT APPEALS  
AND INTERFERENCES

*Ex parte* Gerd Hoffman and REINER NAUMANN

Appeal 2009-013634  
Application 10/518,907  
Technology Center 2800

Oral Hearing Held: July 14, 2010

Before KENNETH W. HAIRSTON, MASHID D. SAADAT,  
BRADLEY W. BAUMEISTER, *Administrative Patent Judges.*

APPEARANCES:

ON BEHALF OF THE APPELLANT:

MEGAN A. MCGOVERN, ESQUIRE  
Fish & Richardson P.C.  
1425 K Street, N.W.  
Eleventh Floor  
Washington, D.C. 2005  
(202) 783-5070  
(202) 783-2331 – fax

The above-entitled matter came on for hearing on Wednesday, July 14, 2010, commencing at 9:54 a.m., at the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, 600 Dulany Street, Alexandria, Virginia, before Janice Salas, Notary Public.

THE CLERK: Calendar number 8, appeal number 2009-013634, Ms. McGovern.

JUDGE HAIRSTON: Thank you.

Ms. McGovern, do you have a business card with you?

MS. MCGOVERN: No, sir.

JUDGE HAIRSTON: Can I get you to spell your name for the record.

MS. MCGOVERN: M-E-G-H-A-N is my first name. My middle initial is A as in Ann. McGovern is M-C-G-O-V-E-R-N.

JUDGE HAIRSTON: Thank you. You may begin.

MS. MCGOVERN: Good morning. My name is Meghan McGovern. I represent the Appellant in this case, Cooper Crouse-Hinds. The rejections of record in this matter should be reversed because none of the cited references describes or suggests a branching device that includes at least one electrically conducting wire terminal as recited in claim 1 of this application. The wire terminal of claim 1 includes three elements: At least one connecting lug, a through-channel for uninterrupted passage of a wire, a holding-down clamp which holds the wires in the through-channel. The holding-down clamp of the wire terminal exhibits a transverse plate that closes off the through-channel.

Embo, the primary reference relied upon in rejecting this claim, does not have a wire terminal with these features. The Examiner has pointed to Embo's stamped part 9, which is shown in figure 3 of Embo, in combination

1 with Embo's plug contact 4, which is shown in figure 1 of Embo, as showing  
2 the recited wire terminal.

3 However, neither of these elements nor their combination has the features of  
4 our recited wire terminal. In particular, these elements do not include a  
5 holding-down clamp that holds wires in a through-channel of the wire  
6 terminal.

7 The Examiner, throughout prosecution and also in the Examiner's answer,  
8 appears to be equating all those -- excuse me -- Embo's guides 13, which are  
9 shown in figure 1 of Embo, in combination with Embo's plug part 5, which  
10 is also shown in figure 1 of Embo, with the recited holding-down plate.

11 However, even if these elements can be combined, they're not included in  
12 the elements that the Examiner is using to point to to show a wire terminal.

13 For these reasons, Embo -- at least these reasons, Embo does not show a  
14 wire terminal with the features of the wire terminal recited in claim 1 of this  
15 application.

16 JUDGE HAIRSTON: Any questions?

17 JUDGE SAADAT: No questions.

18 JUDGE BAUMEISTER: No.

19 JUDGE HAIRSTON: Thank you.

20 MS. MCGOVERN: Well, thank you.

21 Whereupon, the proceedings at 9:57 a.m. were concluded.

22